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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated November 16, 2004, claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-18 and 20-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reigrut et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,575,138, and claims 6, 10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reigrut '138.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the motor of the powered drive assembly is coupled to the first and second rollers to rotate the first and second rollers to stretch film, and the powered drive assembly also includes a disengagable drive that operably couples the motor to the elongated flexible member, and also selectively disengages the elongated flexible member from the motor such that the first and second rollers are rotated under power while the elongated flexible member is disengaged from the motor. Thus, the film dispensing device of claim 1 utilizes a single motor to drive both the first and second rollers and the elongated flexible member, and the motor can be disengaged from the elongated flexible member while remaining operably coupled to the first and second rollers. Claim 1 also recites an elongated flexible member forming a loop and *having a connector adapted for securing stretchable film*. As discussed in more detail at paragraphs [0025] and [0026] of the present application, a film delivery hook 52 on threading chain 50 pulls the front end of stretch wrap 20 through the S-wrap roller system 36 when clutch 66 is engaged to rotate second sprocket 54 with rotation of the second roller 40.

In contrast, Reigrut '138 discloses a clutch motor 61 that rotates rails 49 and 50 via chains 63 and 66 to vertically shift a film/tape center core chuck 48. Rollers 25 and 26 are driven by a drive motor 22. Thus, the drive chain 63 of Reigrut '138 is driven by a different motor than the rollers 25 and 26. As discussed above, the film dispensing device of claim 1 permits a single motor to drive first and second rollers and an elongated flexible member. Also, the disengagable drive permits the same motor to drive only the first and second rollers without driving the elongated flexible member. Reigrut '138 in no way discloses or suggests such an arrangement. Furthermore, claim 1 also recites that the elongated flexible member has a connector adapted for securing a stretchable film. The connector and elongated flexible

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member provide for threading of film through the film dispensing device. Reigrut '138 does not disclose any such connector or threading arrangement.

Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable for those reasons set forth in connection with claim 1.

Independent claim 13 recites a stretch wrap machine including a stretching device. The stretch wrapping device includes a powered drive assembly with a motor that is operably coupled to the first and second rollers to rotate the first and second rollers to stretch film between the rollers. An elongated flexible member forms a loop, and has a connector adapted for securing stretchable film. A drive member operably couples the motor to the elongated flexible member for moving the elongated flexible member to thread film through the film dispensing device, wherein the drive member can be selectively decoupled from the elongated flexible member while the motor rotates the first and second rollers.

Thus, the powered drive assembly of independent claim 13 is somewhat similar to the powered drive assembly of independent claim 1 discussed in more detail above. The motor is operably coupled to the first and second rollers and to the elongated flexible member, and a drive member can be decoupled from the elongated flexible member such that the motor only rotates the first and second rollers. In contrast, Reigrut '138 utilizes two motors: a drive motor 22 to rotate rollers 25 and 26, and a second motor 61 that drives a chain 63 to shift a chuck 48. Also, the elongated flexible member of independent claim 13 includes a connector for securing stretchable film. This provides for threading of film through the stretching device when the flexible member is being driven by the motor. Reigrut '138 does not disclose or suggest any type of threading arrangement.

Claims 14-20 depend from claim 13, and are therefore believed to be allowable for those reasons set forth above with respect to claim 13.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the drive member engages the elongated flexible member to move the elongated flexible member. A disengagable drive selectively couples the motor to the drive member to move the elongated flexible member when the disengagable drive is engaged. The disengagable drive is disengagable to disengage the motor from the drive member, such that the motor rotates the first and second rollers without

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moving the elongated flexible member. Applicants submit that Reigrut '138 does not disclose or suggest a motor that rotates first and second rollers, and also selectively moves an elongated flexible member when a disengagable drive is engaged to guide film through the film dispensing device. As discussed above in connection with independent claims 1 and 13, Reigrut '138 discloses a first motor 22 that drives rollers 25 and 26, and a second motor 61 that drives a chain 63 to shift a center core chuck 48. Thus, Reigrut '138 in no way discloses or suggests a motor that drives first and second rollers, and also engages or disengages an elongated flexible member for threading of film through a film dispensing device as recited in amended claim 21.

Claims 22-26 depend from claim 21, and are therefore believed to be allowable for those reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 21.

Applicants have made a concerted effort to the place the present application in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event there are any remaining informalities, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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